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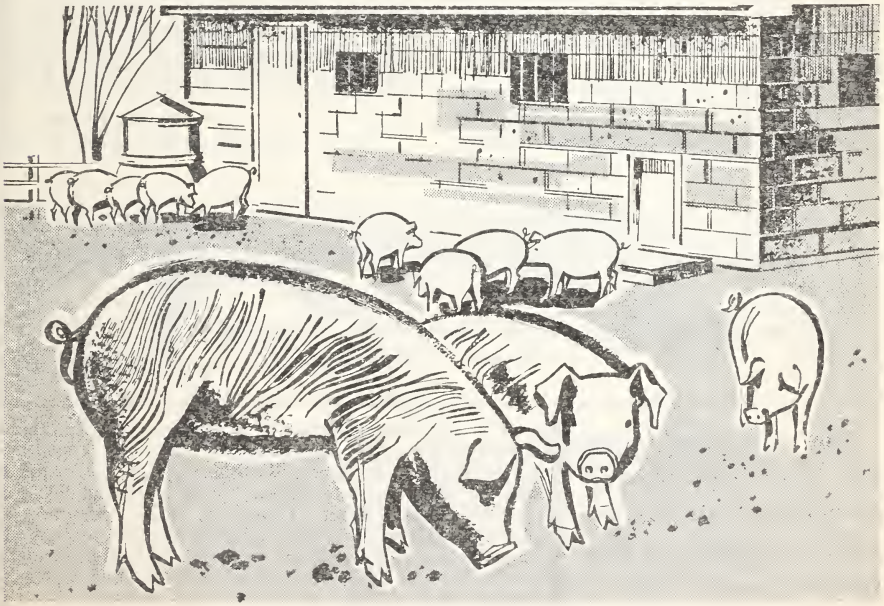
SLIGHTLY LARGER PIG CROP IN PROSPECT FOR 1963

Reports based on farmers' intentions in the 48 States indicate that 6.2 million sows will farrow from June 1, 1963, through November 30, 1963. This is 1 percent more than the number that farrowed in the same period of 1962 and 7 percent above the 1957–61 average. Slight decreases from a year earlier are indicated for the South Atlantic and South Central States. All other regions show increases, with the heavy hog producing West North Central region indicating a 3-percent increase. If the number of sows that farrow remains unchanged from the intentions, and if the number of pigs



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per litter equals the average with an allowance for trend, the June–November 1963 pig crop will be 44.5 million head, the same as in 1962.

The December 1962–May 1963 pig crop totaled 50.0 million head—1 percent more than a year earlier but 3 percent less than the 1957–61 average. The number of sows farrowing during this 6-month period was 7.0 million head, about the same as a year earlier and 4 percent less than the 1957–61 average.

More Pigs Per Litter

The average litter size during the December 1962–May 1963 period was 7.14 pigs. This is about 1 percent more than a year earlier and accounts for the increase in the pig crop. This is the second highest litter size of record—exceeded only by the 7.18 pigs per litter in 1961.

The total pig crop expected for 1963 is 94.5 million head based on 50.0 million pigs from the December–May crop, plus an expected 44.5 million head from the June–November crop. This would be slightly larger than the crop of a year earlier.

Selected States

The number of sows intended to farrow from June 1 through November 30 in the 10 States is 2 percent more than a year earlier. These States account for about three-fourths of the annual pig crop. Included in this 10-State group are Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas.

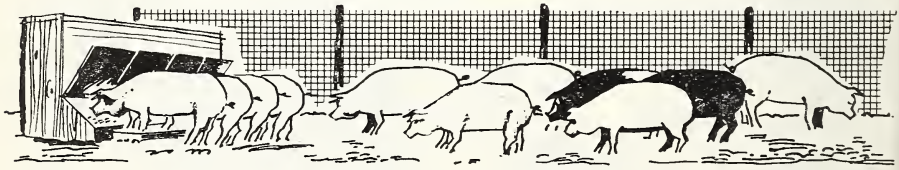
Present intentions indicate that there will be a 3-percent increase in the number of sows to farrow during June, July, and August in these States. No change from a year earlier is intended for the September, October, and November farrowings. The total of 4.7 million sows for the period June through November is 11 percent above the 1957–61 average.

In these States the number of sows farrowing for the February 1962–December 1963 period was 1.8 million head, the same as a year earlier and 2 percent more than the average. Farrowings during December 1962 were 17 percent more than a year earlier, January farrowings were up 4 percent, but February 1963 farrowings were 9 percent less than during February 1962.

Sows farrowing in the March–May 1963 period totaled 3.6 million head, 1 percent more than a year earlier but 2 percent less than average. Farrowings during March were down 7 percent, but April and May farrowings were each up 6 percent.

The June 1, 1963, number of hogs and pigs on farms in the 10 States totaled 49.0 million head, little change from a year earlier. The total consists of 7.6 million head of hogs and pigs used or to be used for breeding. The other hogs and pigs on farms totaled 41.4 million head or 84 percent of the total.

D. T. Mateyka
Statistical Reporting Service



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WOOL . . .
THE CURRENT SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

In April–June 1963, world wool prices were the highest since late 1957-early 1958 for the finer grades of wool and the highest since early 1960 for the medium and coarser grades.

World demand was relatively stable for the lower-than-normal supplies, due to smaller carryover stocks and less production. Wool use was at near-record levels. Total use of all fibers is increasing, but wool's proportion of the total picture is decreasing. Therefore, the higher level of wool prices likely will result in greater blending or substitution of manmade fibers during the rest of 1963.

U.S. woolgrowers received an average of 47.7 cents a pound, grease basis, for shorn wool during the 1962 marketing year ending March 31, 1963. On the basis of this average price, the incentive payments for the 1962 marketing year for shorn wool were 30.0 percent of the dollar returns each producer received from the sale of shorn wool. The payment on sales of unshorn lambs was 57 cents per hundredweight of live animals sold.

Mill use of apparel wool in the United States during 1963 likely will total 265 to 270 million pounds, scoured, compared with 279 million in 1962. This reflects the increasing ratio of stocks of finished apparel fabrics to unfilled orders, inventories of gray and finished fabrics, and use of manmade fibers.

During the first 4 months of 1963, mill use of apparel wool totaled 95.1 million pounds, 5 percent less than a year earlier. Use on the worsted system declined more than that on the woolen system, increasing the share of the total wool use on the woolen system. Also, a higher proportion of the medium grades of wool were used than in the previous year. Although total apparel wool use declined, total use of all fibers increased as greater quantities of manmade fibers, mohair, and reused and reprocessed wool were used.

Imports of dutiable raw wool were higher during the first 4 months of 1963 than a year earlier. This reflected the short supply in early 1963 prior to marketing of the current year's clip, lower U.S. wool production, and the building up of commercial stocks. These imports totaled 52.3 million pounds, clean, 9 percent larger than in 1962. Imports from Australia, New Zealand, and Argentina increased; while those from South Africa and Uruguay declined. Imports of the medium grades of wool increased; those of the finer grades and of the coarser grades decreased.

Imports of apparel wool textile products continued to increase, amounting to approximately 22 million pounds, raw wool content, during the first 4 months of 1963. All categories of apparel wool products, except blankets, show increases in imports during early 1963. The largest increases in these import categories were in tops, yarns, woven fabrics, and knit wearing apparel.

Mill use of carpet wool, amounting to 58.3 million pounds, scoured, or 19 percent more than in 1962, increased substantially during the first 4 months of 1963. Imports of duty-free wool for carpet making totaled 56.5 million pounds, clean, during this period. A larger proportion of these wools graded 40's to 46's than a year earlier. Manmade fibers increased their use and share of the total in early 1963. In contrast, imports of rugs and carpeting were less than year before.

Charles E. Raymond
Economic Research Service

THREE PROGRAMS AID RURAL AREAS

Depressed areas in the United States can stimulate their economy by greater participation in three Government-sponsored programs.

The programs, already available but not fully used, are: The National Vocational Education Acts, the Area Redevelopment Act, and the Manpower Development and Training Act.

The National Vocational Education Acts, although not directly related to easing unemployment, provide specific training on a high school level in agriculture, industry, and home economics. Under this program, area vocational schools, already established in a number of States, permit a wider range of training courses to a larger number of rural persons.

The Area Redevelopment Act of 1961 offers training that relates to an overall economic development plan. Once an area is eligible for benefits, rural residents are entitled to 16 weeks of training at Government expense.

The South participates in this program much less than other areas. As of June last year, of the 9,074 persons who received training, only 800 were in the old South—Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

The Manpower Development and Training Act of 1962 provides individual training. Applicants must be unemployed or in farm families with net annual incomes of less than $1,200. But—the training must be directly related to the job openings in the local labor market. Although the program is nationwide, as of December 1962, only 16 percent of the training requests came from the South. More of the 700,000 persons eligible for training are in Southern States than in all other areas.

The Farm Index

1963 MAPLE SIRUP PRODUCTION FOURTH SMALLEST OF RECORD

The 1963 maple season was "short and sweet"—that's the description given by many producers. Others commented, "the poorest season in years." At any rate, the outcome was a production of 1,145,000 gallons of maple sirup, continuing the downward trend of almost a half century.

This spring's low production was 21 percent less than last year and the fourth smallest crop of record. The smallest production in the 48 years of record was 1,053,000 gallons in 1945—the largest, 5,564,000 gallons in 1918.

A heavy accumulation of snow and low temperatures delayed starting, and unseasonably warm weather brought the season to an early close. Hampered by the snow, producers were unable to reach many of their trees for tapping soon enough to collect the early run of sap.

The sugar content of the sap was high early in the season. In New England, New York, and Pennsylvania the sirup was of good quality, the color light, and the flavor excellent. But the sirup made in the other producing States was dark in color and of poor-to-good quality.

Vermont, with 392,000 gallons, regained first place in maple sirup production this spring after running second to New York in 1962. The Vermont production a year ago was 441,000 gallons. This spring New York produced 368,000 gallons of sirup, 29 percent less than last season's high production.

Production was up in New Hampshire and Massachusetts, the same in Maine, and down in the other maple States. This year's maple sirup production is valued at $5.8 million, $1.0 million less than for last season's larger crop. Producers received an average price of $5.08 per gallon for their 1963 production, $0.40 more per gallon than was paid for the previous year's crop.

Ella Sue Minor
Statistical Reporting Service

HOW MUCH HAVE TOBACCO AND CIGARETTE PRICES GONE UP?

In the last half of the 1950's and through 1961, prices received by growers for flue-cured, burley, and Maryland—the cigarette tobaccos—increased. Prices paid for the 1962 crop of flue-cured—the third largest on record with considerable low-quality tobacco—declined 6 percent from 1961; the average price paid for 1962 burley—the largest crop on record—declined 12 percent from a year earlier.

Prices for imported cigarette leaf rose during the mid-1950's, leveled off in the late 1950's but declined in 1961 and 1962.

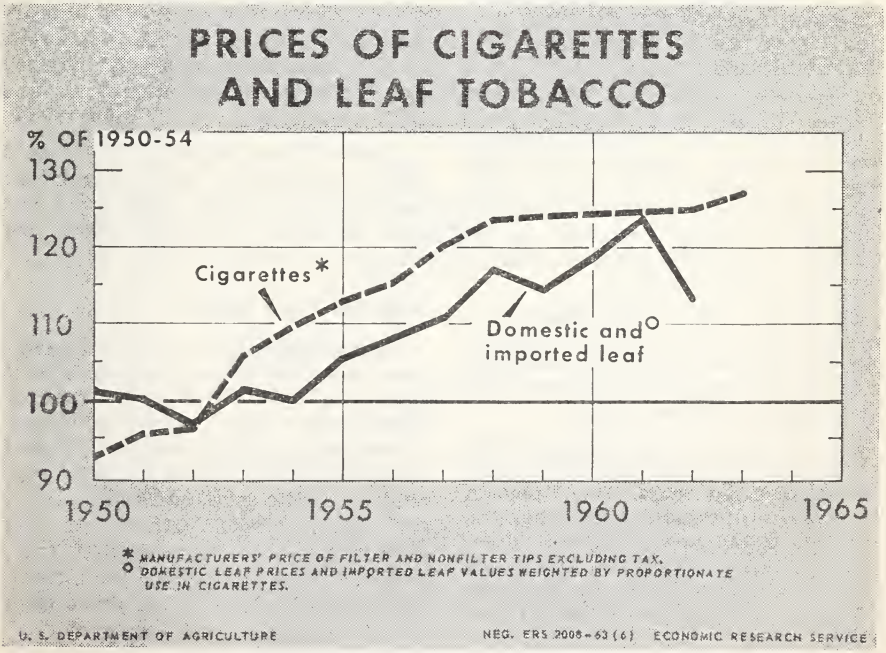
Manufacturers of cigarettes raised prices on some of their brands in April–May 1963—the first changes at the manufacturer level since mid-1957. There have been various retail price increases over most of the country because many States raised taxes on cigarettes.

The increase in manufacturers' prices in April was small—10 cents more per 1,000 for king-size nonfilter cigarettes. It had little effect at the retail level except for carton (10 pack) purchases. The increase in May was more significant—up 35 cents per 1,000 for the regular-size nonfilter-tip brands. This resulted in rises in retail prices of 1 cent a pack for single-package sales and of 7 or 8 cents for a carton.

The recent price increases applied to nonfilter-tip cigarettes. No changes were announced for filter-tip cigarettes—now about 55 percent of total sales.

For all cigarettes combined, manufacturer's prices (excluding tax) average 28 percent above the 1950–54 average. In 1961, prices received by growers, combined with value per pound of imported leaf (weighted together by relative importance), averaged 24 percent above 1950–54; but the 1962 average of prices paid for cigarette tobacco was only 13 percent above the 1950–54 level.

Arthur G. Conover
Economic Research Service



FORECAST ON A FOOD-PROCESSING METHOD—FREEZE-DRYING

- What is freeze-drying?
- What foods can be freeze-dried?
- What are the uses of the food?
- How do freeze-dried foods taste?
- What are the costs of freeze-dry processing?
- How will freeze-drying affect our food industries?

Although complete answers to these questions are not available, research results released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture point to probable answers.

What Is Freeze-Drying?

Freeze-drying produces a dried food, not a frozen one. Drying is effected by sublimation, which means that moisture is taken out of the food while it is frozen. The ice within the food changes from a solid to a gas, bypassing the liquid phase.

The first step in freeze-drying is to reduce the food particle size. As a result of the smaller size, drying time is shortened and costs are thereby lowered. Next the food is quick-frozen, placed in vacuum cabinets, and heat is applied to the food. The combination of heat and vacuum changes the ice to vapor—leaving the food in its original size and shape. The food when completely dried has lost 98 percent of its original moisture, and must be tightly packaged to prevent moisture from reentering. Also, the package must be airtight and lightproof.

To restore these dried foods to a ready-to-eat state, only water need be added, although there is no reason why milk, sirup, lemon-flavored water, or other liquids could not be used.

The method of freeze-drying is not new and has been used in medicine and biology for many years. Blood plasma is a well-known example. Although the technique is not new in these fields, it is new to the food industry. Costs have been high, and still are, but they are now within the range of possibility for many foods.

What Foods Can Be Freeze-Dried?

Foods may be processed either raw or cooked. Chicken and turkey meats appear to have a promising future. Red meats, including beef and pork, shellfish, mushrooms, and some fruits and vegetables also have potential. In addition, special foods such as coffee, tea, spices, and extracts are possibilities.

In general, any food with a high protein or starch content freeze-dries successfully. Foods that freeze well also freeze-dry satisfactorily. Items high in sugar or fat content are hard to freeze, and thus difficult to freeze-dry.

Uses of the Foods?

The Army Quartermaster Corps is the largest single buyer of these foods. Our Armed Forces find them particularly suitable for specialized uses because of their long shelf life at room temperatures, their light weight, and their true flavor retention. Freeze-dried eggs are a far cry from the spray-dried eggs of World War II. Examples of their application for special purposes are their use by our astronauts and high-altitude mountain climbers.

Some of these foods are being used in the institutional trade. Others are used in mixes such as dried soups and sold at retail. Prepared meals for campers are now being sold.

How Do They Taste?

Recent taste tests of freeze-dried foods now on the market show that several of these foods are as good or better than their canned or frozen counterparts. Of the items taste tested by USDA, those rating highest were chicken noodle soup, beef noodle soup, and shrimp creole. Others receiving good panel scores were shrimp, crab, beef in several forms, ham, pork chops, and eggs. Many of these foods were

(Continued on page 9)

MORE EGGS FROM THE MODERN LAYER

The average laying chicken in the United States produced 212 eggs last year—100 more than in 1925. Most of the improvement in the rate of lay, however, has occurred since 1934. During this period production per layer advanced 94 eggs, or at the rate of more than 3 eggs per year.

This improvement is of great economic importance because many of the costs of keeping a layer do not increase significantly as she becomes more productive. This means that the cost of producing a dozen eggs declines rapidly as the rate of lay rises.

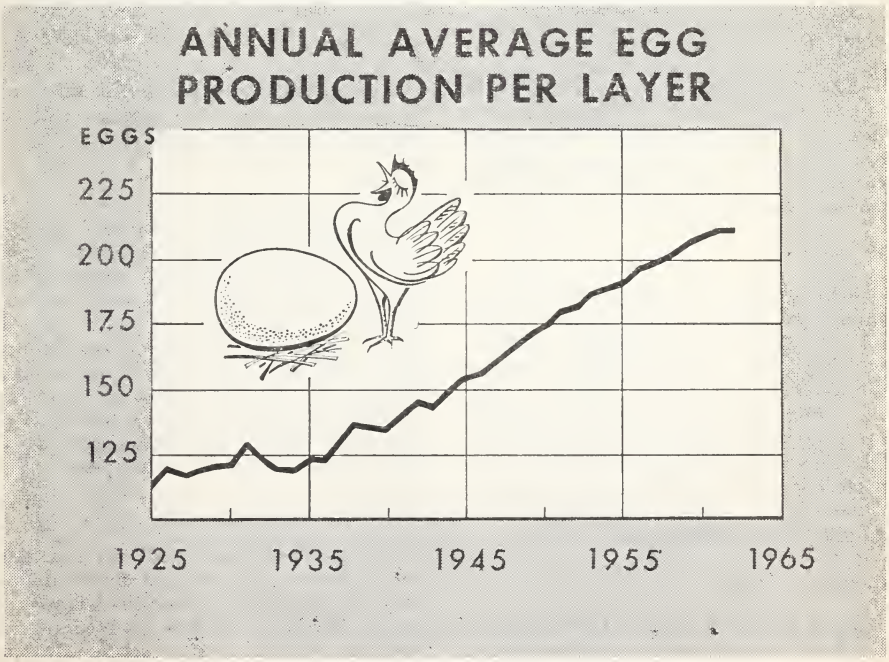
Research discoveries in genetics, nutrition, disease control, and flock management laid the groundwork for the dramatic improvement in layer productivity. But real progress was not made until the new production know-how was put into practice.

Ten years ago there was still a great variation in production practices, as revealed by large regional differences in egg production per layer. In 1952 egg output per layer by regions was as follows: North Atlantic, 196; Western, 195; East North Central, 187; West North Central, 184; South Atlantic, 165; and South Central, 156. The difference between the region having the highest rate of lay and the region having the lowest was 40 eggs.

By 1962 the interregional gap had narrowed considerably. In that year production per layer ranged from 196 eggs in the South Central Region to 222 eggs in the Western Region.

The pressure on producers to adopt the latest technology, including the most productive strains and crosses of layers, is increasing. Egg producers have become highly specialized and more of them now depend exclusively on eggs for their income, whereas years ago the laying flock was only a sideline farm enterprise. In addition, competition among egg producers has become more intense, and this has narrowed profit margins.

William C. Paddock
Economic Research Service



outlook

LIVESTOCK PRICES

Hog prices rose sharply in May from March and April lows. Modest additional increases may occur through midsummer as market supplies remain seasonally low. Fed cattle prices showed signs of recovery in late June and are expected to increase during the third quarter. Sheep and lamb prices, however, probably have passed the seasonal peak and are expected to decrease seasonally through the third quarter.

TURKEYS

This year's turkey crop will be a little larger than in 1962. However, turkeys next Thanksgiving and Christmas may number about the same as in 1962 because of a smaller carryover of frozen turkeys from last year.

WHEAT

Wheat exports hit an alltime high in April and May. A total export of 630 million bushels, or 88 million below a year earlier, is anticipated during 1962–63. Carryover on July 1, 1963, was estimated at 1,165 million bushels, or 140 million below a year earlier. The crop for 1963 in June was estimated at 1,084 million bushels, somewhat smaller than the disappearance anticipated for 1963–64.

FEED GRAINS

Total disappearance of feed grains in 1962–63, as was true a year earlier, is expected to be about 154 million tons—meaning a 61-million-ton carryover into 1963–64, or 11 million less than was carried into 1962–63. Total corn use in 1962–63, including exports, may equal the record-high 4 billion bushels of a year earlier. If so, about 1,300 million bushels would be carried into 1963–64, or 340 million less than a year earlier and 700 million less than 2 years ago.

Decreasing supplies and a continuing good demand this summer are expected to hold corn prices above a year earlier.

BROILERS

Expanded hatchery activity indicates broiler production this summer will be greater than a year earlier.

FRUIT

The deciduous fruit crop this year is expected to be smaller than the 1962 crop and below average, according to early-season estimates. Prospective production of most kinds of fruit is down from 1962, the principal exceptions being apricots and California plums. California grape production, especially Thompson Seedless, may be larger than last year. Prices for 1963 crops probably will be higher than last year.

FATS AND OILS

The prospects for food fats through September are for normal seasonal declines in output and domestic disappearance. Exports of fats and oils and soybeans should continue to be strong.

Carryover stocks of edible vegetable oils next October 1 probably will be about 1.2 billion pounds, near the same as a year earlier but double the average level of recent years. Decreased soybean oil stocks and increased stocks of cottonseed oil are expected. Soybean stocks probably will be 25 million bushels or less, down sharply from the 58 million of last year. Consequently, the total stocks of food fats (including oil content of soybeans) at the start of 1963–64 marketing year will be appreciably below October 1, 1962.

TOBACCO

This year's crops of flue-cured and burley tobaccos are expected to be smaller than in 1962. Total 1963–64 supply, however, is likely to exceed 1962–63 because of a larger anticipated carryover.

Record highs are expected for cigarette output and use in 1963, with modest increases likely over the previous high in 1962. Cigar use should increase over 1962. Smoking tobacco use in 1963 is not expected to increase significantly. Snuff and chewing tobacco use may decrease further.

COTTON

The largest carryover of all kinds of cotton since 1957 is expected on August 1 and may total about 11.1 million bales. This would be 3.3 million bales more than last August 1 and the largest since the 11.3 million in 1957. The estimated sharp increase in carryover reflects the large 1962 crop of 14,864,180 running bales, the biggest since 1953, and a sharp decline in disappearence.

Domestic mill consumption of about 8.3 million bales is expected in 1962–63. This would be 700,000 less than 1961–62 but about the same as in 1960–61. Cotton exports in the current season are not expected to exceed 3.5 million bales.

Freeze Drying—Continued

tested in mixes and showed their highest scores when mixed with sauces and other ingredients. This was evidenced in chili con carne, stews, creamed dishes, salads, and soups.

Costs of Freeze-Drying?

Despite recent innovations in drying procedures, freeze-drying is expensive. However, recent research studies by USDA economists show that costs may be reduced in the future as processing plants become larger and more efficient. Although processing costs are now in the range of 7 to 25 cents per pound of water removed, it is quite likely that future costs may settle to a level between 3 and 7 cents per pound. This is still high when compared with freezing, canning, or other commonly used drying methods, but is acceptable, even now, for some of the higher valued or specialized foods. This is particularly true for foods where drying is needed and high flavor retention is essential.

The Future of Freeze-Drying?

Freeze-drying is expected to gain in popularity as a food-preservation method. At present 12 companies in the United States and Canada are freeze-drying for the commercial market. Abroad, 19 firms produce a variety of foods ranging from coffee to mushrooms. It is unlikely, however, that this new technique will replace our conventional food-preserving methods. Rather, it is expected that freeze-drying will create a group of foods that will meet new needs of the future.

Volume expectations are about $200 million (value at the processing level) by 1967. This is small when compared with our present freezing industry of about 7 billion pounds (meats, vegetables, and fruits only), and our gigantic 19 billion-pound canning industry. However, it does indicate a high rate of growth for this infant industry. We can expect to learn more of its importance as its development unfolds.

Kermit Bird
Economic Research Service

CONSUMERS CHANGE FATS AND OILS BUT USE SAME AMOUNTS

The rate of use per person of fats and oils has averaged about 69 pounds annually since 1950. However, total consumption, keeping pace with an increasing population, has risen (from 10.2 billion pounds in 1951 to 13.0 billion in 1962). Food uses account for about two-thirds of the total fats and oils consumed each year in the United States and nonfood uses, about one-third.

In the food category, sharp changes have occurred in the kinds of fats and oils used by civilians, despite little change in the per capita rate. Gradually the reduced consumption of butter and lard (direct use) has been offset by the increasing use of margarine, shortening, and salad and cooking oils.

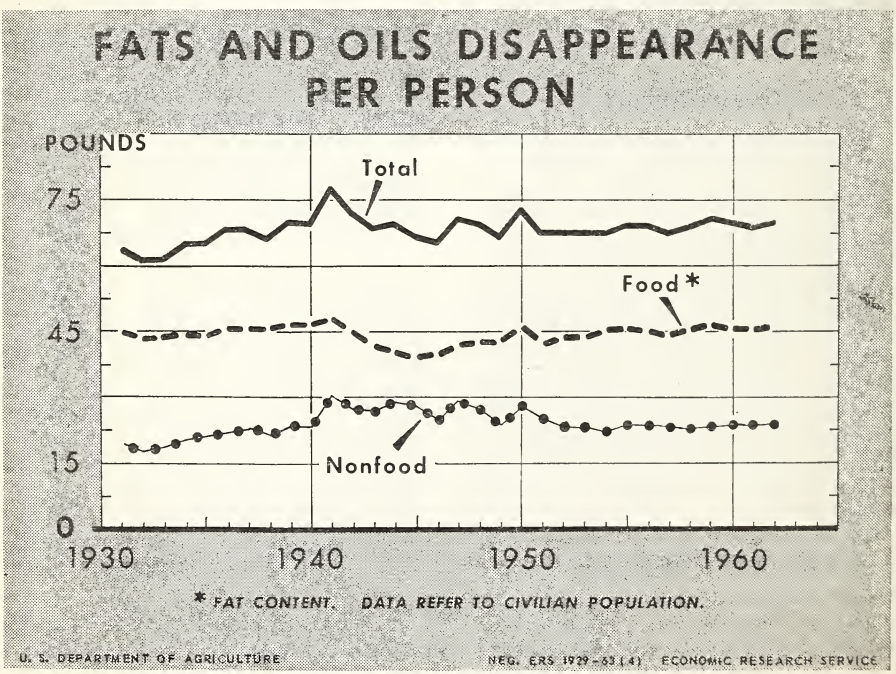
Fat and cholesterol awareness by many consumers apparently has not affected the total food fat intake. About the only indications so far of "fat consciousness" have been some shifts from the solid fats to the liquids and from animal fats to the vegetable fats.

Food processors are becoming aware of the Nation's health consciousness, and reflect this in the ingredients they select for their products. For example, there was an increase in corn oil and safflower oil use in margarine, and cooking and salad oils. These two oils are among those high in linoleic—a polyunsaturated fatty acid and essential dietary substance.

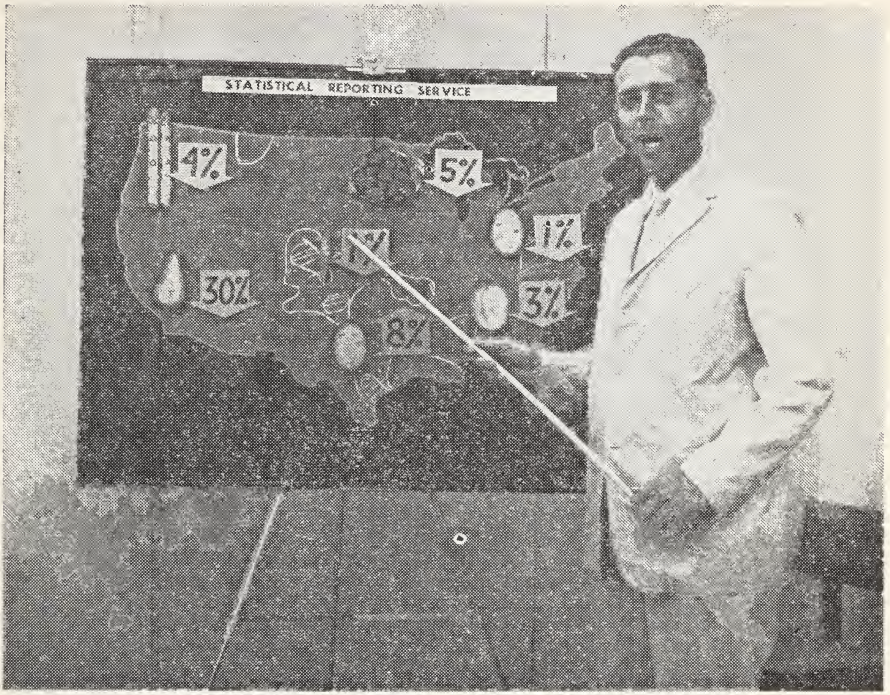
While many food manufacturers probably are waiting for the outcome of further medical research on fat in diets, some have made the health issue, even though unsettled, an important part of their promotional and sales campaigns.

In the nonfood category, reduced use of fats and oils in soap and drying oil products offset increases in other industrial products (chemicals, fat splitting, fats in animal feeds, etc.).

George W. Kromer
Economic Research Service



NEWS FROM CROP REPORTING BOARD CAN BE SEEN ON TELEVISION



USDA information man, Howard Lehnert, Jr., using stick-on props and map of U.S., gives crop news.

The facts supplied by crop, livestock, and price reporters spread like oil on water, moving from the farmlands to the State offices, where the information is refined. Statistics flow on to Washington for further analysis and continue in an unending chain of reports to newspapers—farmers—businessmen.

As a public service, highlights of the major reports of the Crop Reporting Board can be seen on television in some areas of the Nation. The information is telecast once a month and usually occupies 6 minutes of a half-hour farm program called "Across the Fence." Here are the locations and stations where this crop information can be viewed:

WASHINGTON, D.C.—can be seen on channel 4, WRC–TV.

CHICAGO, ILL.—can be seen on channel 9, WGN–TV, on the program, "Morning Farm Report."

BOSTON, MASS.—can be seen on channel 5, WHDH–TV.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.—can be seen on channel 6, WBRC–TV.

DAYTONA BEACH, FLA.—can be seen on channel 2, WESH–TV.

FORT WORTH, TEX.—can be seen on channel 5, WBAP–TV.

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.—can be seen on channel 4, KRON–TV.

SEATTLE, WASH.—can be seen on channel 4, KOMO–TV.

This TV report has been in operation for a year. It may be telecast by more stations in other areas of the Nation in the near future.

WORLD MEAT PRODUCTION RECORD HIGH IN 1962

Meat production in the 44 leading meat countries reached a record high in 1962, reflecting an overall increase in world livestock numbers and a higher standard of living as a result of increased per capita consumption of meat products.

Output in the 44 countries producing the major portion of the world's meat supply totaled 108.8 billion pounds in 1962, or 4.4 billion pounds higher than the 104.4 billion pounds produced in 1961. The 1962 meat output is 11 percent higher than the 1956–60 average and 13 percent higher than the 1951–55 average.

The rise in meat production since 1951 has more than equaled population growth and per capita meat consumption has increased in most countries. The gain in meat production in 1962 was the largest in recent years and was about twice that of the gain in population.

World numbers of cattle and hogs on January 1, 1963, were above a year earlier, while sheep numbers were increasing only about 2 million head. Therefore, a further increase in meat production in the 44 countries is expected during 1963, but all major producing countries may not show gains.

From the world production of 108.8 billion pounds of meat in 1962, the 10 leading countries accounted for 80.5 billion, or 74 percent of the total. The United States led with 29 billion pounds, as compared to 15 billion for second place U.S.S.R. West Germany, France, and Argentina all produced over 5 billion pounds. The other five leading countries—Brazil, the United Kingdom, Australia, Poland, and Italy—ranged from almost 3 billion to over 4 billion pounds of meat.

Only 5 of the 44 countries—Chile, Greece, Ireland, Spain, and New Zealand—produced less than in the previous year.

Estimates for Communist China, primarily a pork producer, are not included in this summary, although China is most likely the world's third largest meat producer. It is estimated that China has 120 million head of hogs and a relatively high slaughter rate; however, the average slaughter weight is undoubtedly low.

The largest percentage increase in 1962 over the previous year in meat production occurred in Japan. They increased output of meat by 32 percent. Hungary reported a 14-percent increase, while Australia, the Philippines, and Sweden had 12 percent, and Finland, 11 percent. Russia reported an increase in meat production of 8 percent, from 13.9 billion pounds in 1961 to 15 billion pounds in 1962. This is the largest increase in pounds over the previous year for any of the 44 reporting countries. Portugal, West Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Egypt, and Italy all reported from 7 to 9 percent gains, while an 8-percent loss in meat output occurred in New Zealand.

The world increase in total output of beef and veal was almost 4 percent; pork and mutton, 6 percent; lamb and goatmeat increased less than 1 percent. Horsemeat production declined about 1 percent from 1961.

John L. Ginn
Foreign Agricultural Service

The Farmer's Share

In April the farmer's share of the consumer's food dollar was 36 cents, the same as it was in March. In April 1962, the farmer's share was 38 cents.

FARM REAL ESTATE VALUES REACH NEW HIGH

Farm real estate market prices moved to new highs through most of 1962 and the early part of 1963 as a result of continued demand and few farms on the market.

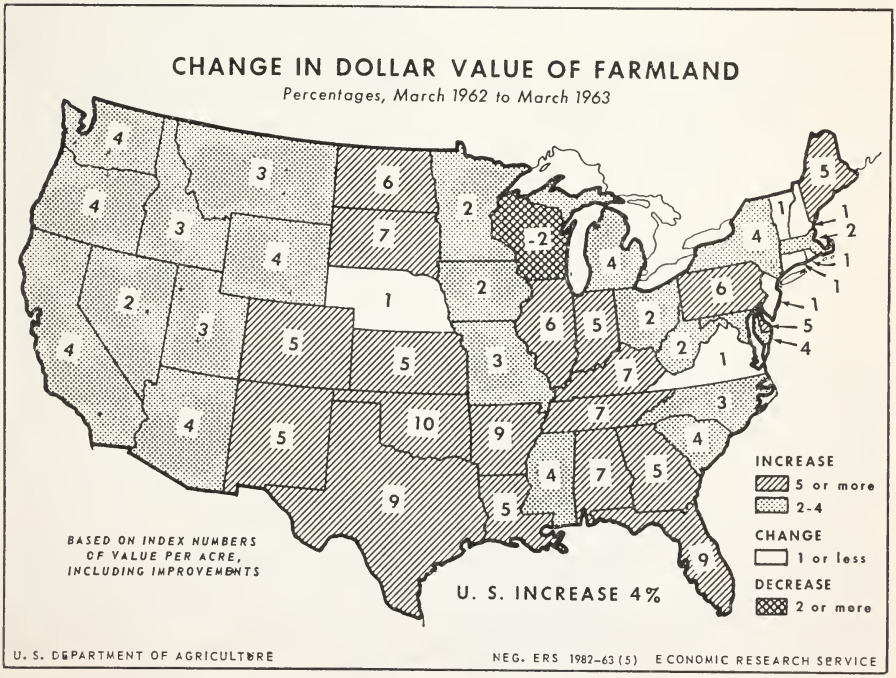
During the year ended March 1, the average market value of all farm real estate in the 48 States rose 4 percent. This most recent price rise compares with increases of 5 percent during the like period of 1961–62 and 1 percent in 1960–61. As of March 1, the estimated value of all farm real estate, at $144 billion, was $6 billion greater than a year earlier. Average value per acre climbed from $124 to $130, and, as farm sizes have continued to increase, the average value per farm rose proportionately more—to $45,000 on March 1, 1963, from $42,000 a year earlier, a 7-percent advance.

Although some price weakness appeared in Wisconsin where values dipped slightly (2 percent), values rose with a high degree of uniformity in all other States. The advance was especially strong in Arkansas, Florida, Oklahoma, and Texas, where prices rose 9 to 10 percent during the year. Market prices advanced 5 percent or more in 19 States, nearly all of them east of the Rocky Mountains.

The range in dollar values per acre is quite wide among States. Even when States are grouped according to general similarities in farm production, differences in values are marked. In the Pacific States, where prices are greatly influenced by high-valued irrigated land, the average was $264 per acre. On the other hand, in the Mountain States where grazing predominates, average values at $48 per acre were only one-fifth as large as those in the Pacific States.

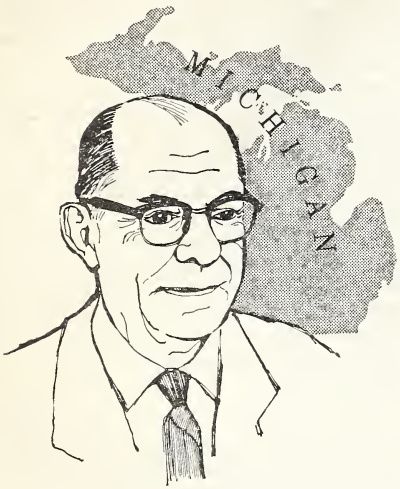
Second highest among the regions, the Corn Belt, averaged $244 per acre, and in the Northeast, where urbanization is a major consideration, farm real estate reached $206 per acre.

John F. Gale
Economic Research Service



Meet the State Statistician . . .

CECIL J. BORUM



Who is Cecil J. Borum?

Our readers in Michigan know, since he is their statistician in charge—the man who heads the Crop Reporting Service in their State.

Something they probably don't know, however, is that C. J. Borum presented Henry Wallace with an agricultural problem long before Wallace became Secretary of Agriculture or Vice President of the United States.

It was 1917 when Borum read Wallace's book, "Agricultural Prices," and what he read marked a turning point in his life. A schoolteacher since he was graduated from the Purdue College of Agriculture in 1916, Borum was fascinated with crop forecasting. He wrote to Wallace and asked how he could train in that line of work. The answer was unsatisfactory, presumably because there were no university courses in statistical forecasting at that time.

Ambition eventually overcame the discouragements and delays that were in the way of Borum's new career as an agricultural statistician. He passed a civil service examination in statistics and agriculture in 1921 with a good grade, went on to attain an M.S. degree in agricultural economics at Purdue, and received his first appointment with the Department of Agriculture as assistant statistician for Indiana in May 1928.

By 1930 he was promoted to statistician in charge in South Dakota. In 1935 he was placed in charge of the joint Oregon and Washington Crop Reporting Service, and 3 years later was transferred to his present post in Michigan.

Borum's selection of a career was a good one as his record indicates. In 1953, he received a USDA Superior Service Award. He is listed in "Who's Who in the Midwest" and in "American Men of Science."

His wife is the former Ruth Shelby, also a Purdue graduate. They were married in 1921 and have one son, who now teaches in Miami, Fla.

Both Borum and his wife enjoy travel. In the past they have gone to South America and Trinidad by freighter and to Central Mexico and Yucatan by air. After his retirement next year they look forward to an extended trip.

In the meantime Borum has his work cut out for him. There are lots of important agricultural statistics to be collected in a State like Michigan, the second largest State east of the Mississippi. Climate, soil types, topography, and markets are varied. Dairy products are the largest single source of farm income, and corn is the principal cultivated crop. About one-third of the dried field beans produced in the United States come from Michigan, and it leads all other States in their production. Michigan also is number one in tart cherry and cucumber pickle production.

These are some of the facts and figures of Cecil Borum's trade—facts and figures requiring his constant care if they are to be of value to our economy.

JULY 21-27 IS NATIONAL FARM SAFETY WEEK

National Farm Safety Week, July 21–27, 1963, will emphasize the need for reducing farm accidents—accidents in which serious consequences extend to the families of those injured or killed.

The number of fatal accidents on farms (excluding those in farm homes and to farm people off the farm) declined by about 1 percent per year during the 8 years 1954–61, whereas the farm population declined by about 3 percent a year. The widening gap shows that farm accidents are not being reduced as fast as the farm population is declining, and illustrates the increasing need for accident prevention.

A direct correlation may exist between annual wages earned at farmwork and farm accident fatality rates (again excluding those occurring in farm homes and to farm people off the farm). The higher frequency in the States with higher farm wages may pose a problem for further research. Perhaps part of the explanation is that powered farm machinery, which causes about one-third of the on-farm fatalities, is more widely used on farms in States with the highest wage rates.

Machinery, drownings, and firearms accounted for about two-thirds of all on-farm accident fatalities during the 8 years 1954–61, according to figures furnished by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

The important job of educating persons in the cause of these accidents and their prevention is currently carried on by about 30 full- or part-time farm safety specialists in at least 20 States. They represent their State universities, State departments of education, Farm Bureau insurance companies or, in Ohio, the Industrial Commission (which administers the workmen's compensation act). In these and in other States, Federal extension workers also do part-time farm safety work. Most of the States have organized State farm safety councils and have active programs aimed at reducing farm accidents.

John D. Rush
Economic Research Service

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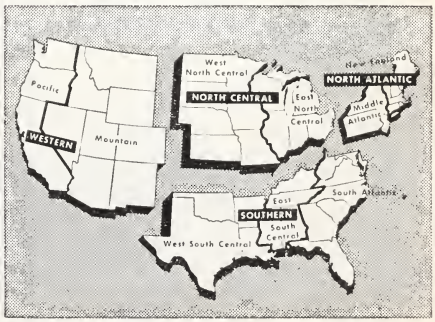

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